

## ABSTRACT

A method for controlling SO<sub>3</sub> in a combustion process of a sulfur-containing fuel, the method steps including partially combusting the fuel to create a reducing environment; maintaining the reducing environment for a sufficient period such that SO<sub>3</sub> is reduced to SO<sub>2</sub> to 5 achieve a desirable level of SO<sub>3</sub>; and combusting the remainder of the fuel in an oxidizing environment; thereby reducing the conversion of levels of SO<sub>3</sub> in the flue gases.